Exploration of Oil and Gas

1809. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has awarded contracts for exploration of oil and gas in 14 blocks;

(b) the names of the parties who have been awarded these contracts;

(c) the time by which oil and gas is likely to be explored from these blocks; and

(d) the other terms and conditions of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has recently awarded contracts for exploration of oil and gas in 14 blocks under the Seventh and Eighth Rounds of exploration bidding.

(b) The names of parties who have been awarded these contracts are :

1. Rexwood Cor., USA
2. Okland Oil Co., USA
3. Essar Oil Ltd., India
4. Opseis Inc., USA
5. Phoenix Overseas Ltd., India.
6. Reliance Industries Ltd., India.
7. Occidental International Expl. and Production Co., USA.
8. Hindustan Oil Exploration Co., India.
9. General Fibres (P) Ltd.
10. Assam Company Ltd., India.
11. Medallion Company, USA.
12. Enron Exploration Co., USA
13. Larsen and Toubro Ltd., India.
14. Tullow Oil Plc.,
15. Joshi Technologies Inc., USA

(c) The exploration work in these blocks would commence after signing of Production Sharing agreements.

(d) The salient terms and conditions for award of these contracts are:

> "The contracts of exploration blocks are production sharing contracts with a contract period in case of crude oil and associated gas, of upto 25 years. Companies are exempted from payment of bonuses and statutory levies. The Government of India would have the first right of refusal in respect of the oil produced under these contracts, with companies being paid for their share of oil at international prices. Provision for participation by ONGC/OIL in the venture at the exploration and/or the development stage has been made and ONGC/OIL can take a participating interest of 30% to 40% in the venture. Provisions have also been made for the development of commercially exploitable natural gas resources. No expenditure is incurred by Government of India under these contracts.

Natural Gas

1810. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to explore huge quantity of natural gas and set up more gas based industries in Tripura; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). ONGC is actively engaged in the exploration for hydrocarbon in Tripura. Presently one seismic crew and three exploratory drilling rigs are in operation in Western Tripura (excluding Baramura).

Under the exploration bidding rounds, one block AA-ON/3 falling in Tripura has been approved by Government of India for award to Okland Oil Co., USA; Rexword Corporation, USA, subject to finalisation of contract terms and conditions. 1.64 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated for gas based units in Tripura.

Under Water Pipeline

1811. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint working group considering of Gas Authority of India and Oman Oil Company to study the technical aspects of the agreement for long term supply of gas by OOC to India through a $ 5 billion under water pipeline;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement;

(c) whether feasibility and capability of the Oman Oil Company (OOC) had been studied before the agreement was signed and if so, the technical aspects to be studied by the joint working group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Working Group will expedite the feasibility study and identify agencies to finance the project.

(c) The Oman Oil Company had completed the pre-feasibility study before the Agreement was signed.